implementation of fertilizer projects and production of catalysts. Another undertaking Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL) is engaged in mining operations of rock phosphate and Pyrites, besides the manufacture of SSP. However, all its operations are presently under suspension.

(c) and (d) The fertilizer PSUs have been classified as "non-core Enterprises." Keeping in view the policy of the Government to bring down its equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26 per cent or lower, the Disinvestment Commission recommended disinvestment by way of strategic sale in the following PSUs in the fertilizers sector:—

1. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL), Chennai;
2. National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL), Noida;
3. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), Paradeep;
4. Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT), Udyogamandal;
5. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Mumbai; and
6. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL), Noida.

It is added here that the Government has divested its 74 per cent equity held in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. to M/s Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt. Ltd. on 28.2.2002 alongwith its management control.

Disinvestment of FACT and RCF

2801. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision for disinvestment in FACT and RCF had been deferred;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether any final decision for disinvestment of these two have been considered again; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The process of disinvestment of the fertilizer PSUs has been taken up in a staggerd manner.

(c) and (d) It has now been decided to initiate the process of disinvestment in FACT.

Disinvestment of NFL, MFL and PPL

2802. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment process in the case of NFL and MFL is in progress;

(b) if so, whether the expression of interest from the prospective bidders has been called;

(c) whether the process of selection of a global advisor/merchant banker is under way in the case of PPL;

(d) if so, whether the restructuring proposal of PPCL, based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, is under process;

(e) if so, what is the latest position in this regard; and

(f) to what extent it has been finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 74 per cent of GOI-held equity in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. has been disinvested with effect from 28.2.2002 along with the transfer of its management to M/s Zuari Maroc Phosphates Private Ltd.

(d) to (f) The restructuring proposals of PPCL has been submitted to the competent authority in the Government.